

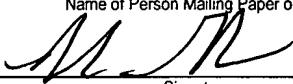


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/690,010  
Applicant(s): Yoshiaki HATA  
For: ANALYZING APPARATUS  
Confirmation No.: 6171  
Customer No.: 24367  
Docket No.: 15162/02600  
Filed: October 12, 2000  
Group Art Unit: 1753  
Examiner: Jeffrey Thomas Barton

**MAIL STOP RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EV 839611756 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: JULY 5, 2006 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
DERRICK GORDON Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee
 Signature
JULY 5, 2006 Date of Signature

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is a preliminary amendment, which is being submitted concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2006, which provides for a response period ending July 5, 2006.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.

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03 FC:1202 50.00 DA